

1-2 consistent with those of allowed claims 3-9 also directed to the module of this invention.

In the Reasons for Allowance the Examiner has indicated that no prior art discloses or makes obvious the module having the first and second end caps wherein the end caps comprise a retaining member having a center opening that is shaped and sized to fit about the shoulder to securely retain the tubular member to the flanged end plate when one of the ends of the tubular member is positioned between the shoulder and the retaining member. It is not believed the amendments to claims 1-2 and 10 effect these reasons for allowance.

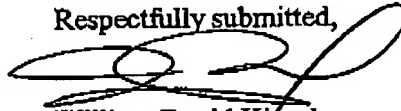
Claim 1 has been amended to eliminate the requirement that the tubular member have two openings. There is only a need for one opening to fill the tubular member. Should it be necessary to empty the tubular member then this same opening can also serve that purpose. Again this scope of the invention is consistent with the allowed scope of the invention in claim 3 and does not effect the reasons for allowance given by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has also been amended to eliminate the requirement that the flange section have bolt openings. As indicated at page 2, lines 7-9 of the specification a bolted arrangement is not necessary should it be desired to connect adjacent modules. Again this scope of the invention is consistent with the allowed scope of the invention in claim 3 and does not effect the reasons for allowance given by the Examiner.

Finally, claim 10 has been amended to add the limitation that the tubular member have at least one opening to permit filling the tubular member. As claim 10 was allowed even before this amendment, the amended claim should also be allowable.

As all amendments to the claims have been made to clarify the invention and to remove clearly unnecessary limitations to the definition of the invention it is respectfully requested that these amendments be entered and claims 1-11, as amended, be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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